The Anniversary Booklet

Celebrating One Hundred Years

1896 - 1996

First United Church of Christ
207 W. Horah Street
Salisbury, North Carolina

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Celebrating One Hundred Years

1896 - 1996

First United Church of Christ
Salisbury, North Carolina

Formerly

First Evangelical & Reformed Church

Formerly

First Reformed Church of Salisbury

Formerly

Faith Reformed Church of Salisbury

Researched and written by
Janet Rhodes

Junior Choir, c. early 1950's

First Row: Ralph Dearborn, Neita Stout, Gloria Crook, Sarah Robinson, Katherine Dearborn, Barbara Arey, and Libby Arey. Second Row: Johnnie Walser, Jerry Weaver, Brenda Mickey, Sarah Burch, Jimmy Lyerly, Fred Trexler and Mrs. Levens.

Background: Altar and Pulpit built by Luther Fisher (c. 1935). The altar was reported to be the first in an E&R Church in the Southern Synod, and is now located in the History Room.

Foreword

We give thanks to all who have, during our first one hundred years, helped to keep the record. For every secretary, every History Room worker, for all who helped make our history by the work they did and the dedication they showed, we give thanks.

Special appreciation is felt for the late Mrs. Hoy Fisher who wrote a history of the church in 1965, and to all of our ministers and secretaries who have been so careful to preserve the documents which tell our story.

We trust that by means of the words and pictures herein, many additional mental pictures will come to mind.

May the end result be a sense of peace and joy in our hearts, and the strength to carry on that which was first started in the home of Mr. & Mrs. F.M. Holshouser, one hundred years ago.

To God be the glory!

Janet Rhodes
Frank & Diane Goodnight

The Anniversary Committee

David Crook
Narvie Lee Bonds, Chair
Jo Carpenter
Juanita Lagg
Greg Alcorn
Javis Arey
Joe Lyerly
Sue Scott
Lamont Barnhardt
Katharyn Weaver
Miriam Clary
Marie Cuthrell
Stella Isenberg

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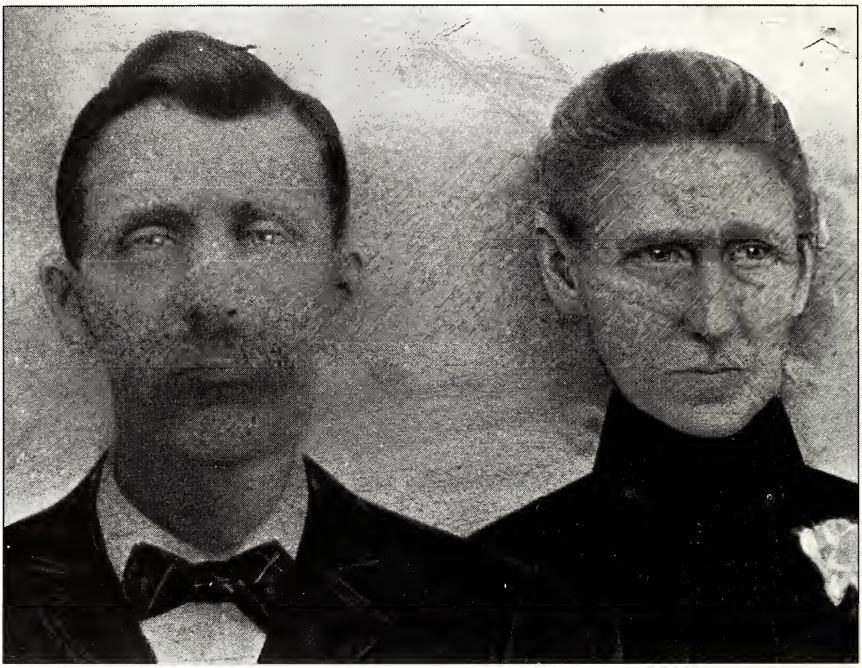
Dedication

This Anniversary Booklet
marking our first 100 years
is dedicated
to the
Glory of God
and
to all His faithful followers
who have worshipped here.

M.C. Barnhardt, Sr., a faithful follower, leaves the old church after the last Sunday worship, c. 1954.



Frederick Monroe Holshouser, 1846-1922, and Susan Virginia Fisher Holshouser, 1850-1915, were two of the eight charter members of Faith Reformed Church. The organizational meeting of our church was held in their home. A native of the Lower Stone section of Rowan County, Monroe was a gentle, humble, peace loving man who loved his church. Susan gave the very best of her life to the welfare of her church, giving not only her substance, but presenting herself a "living sacrifice".

HOW OUR CHURCH GOT ITS START

The desire for a Reformed Church in Salisbury grew in the hearts of eight people destined to become the charter members of the church which was first named Faith Reformed Church of Salisbury. The committee in charge of organizing a church in Salisbury included the Reverends J. M. L. Lyerly, A. Shulenberger, J. C. Leonard, and P. Barringer. This committee met in Salisbury on May 7, 1896, with the Rev. A. C. Whitmer, Supt. of Home Missions of the Salisbury Area. Reverend J. M. L. Lyerly and Reverend J. C. Leonard were the two at the organizational meeting. (Reverend J. M. L. Lyerly was a brother to Miss Margie Lyerly's and Miss Frances Lyerly's Daddy's Daddy.)

On April 28, 1896, the Board of Missions purchased a lot at the corner of West Horah and South Church Street. On May 12, 1897, the church bought the property from the Board of Missions.

On June 28, 1896, an organizational meeting was held in the home of F. Monroe Holshouser (grandfather of Katharyn Weaver). Charter members in attendance included Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Holshouser, Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Corriher, Mr. M. D. Lefler, Mrs. John Odell, Mrs. Cora Earnhardt, and Dorsett Holshouser.

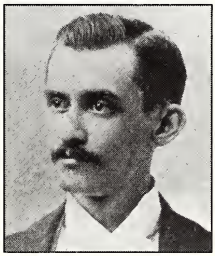
The first deacon elected was H. C. Corriher, who also served as the first secretary. The first elder elected was M. D. Lefler.

The group first met in rented space in the YMÇA. A short time later, they built a temporary chapel on the Horah Street side of lot at an approximate cost of $150.

Records show that a lady friend loaned the church its first organ. Then, in the fall of 1906, a pipe organ was bought.

On September 2, 1897, the cornerstone was laid for what was described as a "one room brick church, with pulpit in recessed area at front. The choir loft was to the left of the pulpit. There was recessed room for organ bellows, two entrances, and a belfrey over corner door." The financial cost estimate for the church was $3,000, but the actual cost was $5,000, and this was without a Sunday School room finished and with no furnace. Gifts from the Classis were $500, gifts from Salisbury citizens amounted to $800, and stain glass windows were given from people throughout the area in memory of loved ones.

OUR PASTORS



W.H. Stubblebine

W. H. Stubblebine served as the first pastor from 11/1/1896 until 3/1/1899. The first service in the new church was held on 11/18/1898.

The second pastor, Gerney Weber, served from 1/22/1900 until his untimely death from typhoid on 11/19/1900. (The late Gerney Holshouser is reported-

Gerney Weber

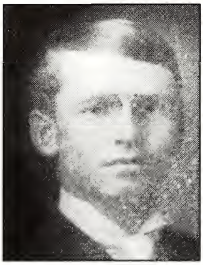
ly named after Gerney Weber.)

Dr. Paul Barringer is said to have served as Interim Pastor between Gerney Weber and William B. Duttera.

William B. Duttera

The third pastor, William B. Duttera, served from June 1, 1901 until August 1, 1915. Records show that on August 4, 1901, a 40 cent gas bill was presented to the consistory for payment.

In October 1903, the 23rd meeting of the Potomac Synod was held in Faith Church. Dr. J. M. Schick, Pastor of President Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, D. C., spoke.

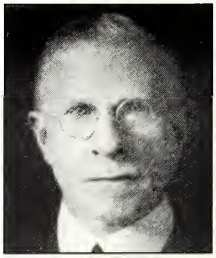


Rev. C.C. Wagoner

The fourth pastor, Rev. C. C. Wagoner, commenced January 1916, and resigned August 1, 1922. His salary, a couple years before he left, amounted to $1100 per year.

On 2/27/1917, a motion made to change the name of the church to First Church was tabled. However, on May 4, 1919, by a vote of 30 to 14, Faith Reformed changed to First Reformed of the N. C. Classis of the Potomac Synod.

The fifth pastor, W. H. Causey, served from 12/3/1922 thru 8/23/1923.



W.H. Causey

The sixth pastor, Banks J. Peeler, served from 5/1/1924 until 9/30/1932. Reverend Peeler came to a "confused, disorganized church—to try to rebuild." The membership at the beginning of his pastorate numbered 168. In 1926, the minister's annual salary was $2,000.

Dr. Banks J. Peeler

By 1927, there were 242 members.

The Mission Board gave $650 toward this salary. On October 1, 1928, First Church became self-supporting, assuming the Mission Board's part of the minister's salary.

During Banks J. Peeler's pastorate, membership grew from 168 to 302. In 1930-1931, Reverend Peeler was Classis President. Later he was given a doctorate at Catawba College, and he also served as President of the Southern Synod.

It was during Dr. Peeler's pastorate that the church went from "mission" status to self-support. Catawba College moved from Newton, N.C. to Salisbury in 1925, and this move brought many members who had college connections.

In 1929 the property adjoining the parsonage and facing Horah Street was purchased. It was called "The Miller Property" and was used for Sunday School classes.

Banks J. Peeler served the church in later years also. According to a 1/3/73 newsletter, he was serving as President of the Churchmen's Fellowship.

Rev. George T. Fitz became our seventh pastor, beginning in March 1933 and ending in April 1945. Rev. Fitz was active in community affairs and thus our church took a position of leadership in what later came to be called "the downtown churches." In June 1934 the merger of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical Church took place in Cleveland, Ohio. From that date forward, we were known as the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Our church was the setting for two historic occasions. In 1939 the organization of "Southern Synod" took place here. In October 1940 the former Missionary Society was changed to the "Women's Guild" and the Synodical organization took place in our church. At the time of Rev. Fitz's resignation, our church membership had grown to 393, according to a Synod Yearbook.

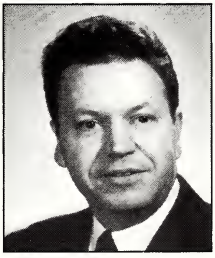
Rev. George T. Fitz

Rev. Fitz and Barringer twins at John's River Valley, 1938.

Rev. Fitz was Synod President from 1943-1945. He received a Doctorate, D. D. in the 50's.

During the tenure of Rev. Fitz, Mrs. Fitz organized a Jr. Choir, serving as both pianist and director. Mrs. Hoy Fisher and Ruth Kluttz later became pianists. Eventually, Mrs. Fitz directed the Sr. Choir. Along with Mrs. Shuford Peeler, Mrs. Fitz was credited with organizing Circle #4. She fed the consistory on numerous occasions. She is even said to have painted most of the parsonage herself.

Rev. Joshua Levens became our eighth pastor in September 1945 and resigned in March 1957. On 7/30/45, the consistory approved a motion by Rufus Cohen to offer Mr. Levens $3,000 per year and half of his moving expenses. His pastorate was a period of much membership growth and physical and material expansion. A new parsonage at 415 W. Bank street was purchased and became home to Rev. & Mrs. Levens. While it was being redecorated, Mr. & Mrs. Levens and Mrs. Swaim, Mrs. Levens' mother lived at the Yadkin Hotel.



Rev. Joshua Levens

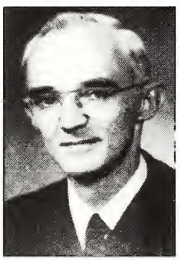
In 1947 the B. V. Hedrick property, site of our present church, was acquired for $25,000. The consistory, of which Rev. Levens was president from 1946 throughout his ministry of the church,

decided in March of 1947 to wait until they had $40,000 on hand before starting the building program. At this time, Elders were W. H. Lyerly, N. O. Ribelin, and Rufus Cohen. Deacons were B. D. Arey, Fred Lineberger, and Marion Richards.

Directly behind the church, facing West Monroe Street was a house which was bought in 1950. When remodeled, it became the church parsonage. Additional property, called the Murdock Estate, located on the southwest corner of Church and Horah Streets was purchased. The building of our present church was begun in 1953 and the structure was occupied in October 1954. The old church property was sold for $18,000. The occupation of the new sanctuary was celebrated with a week of services. Membership totaled 454 and the value of the church property was $400,000 when Reverend Levens left.

The merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Congregational Christian Church took place in June 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio. The new denomination was named the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Porter W. Seiwell served as our ninth pastor from August 1957 to July 1960. During this time period, the educational building was completed, the major portion of the labor coming from the men of the church. The entire church building was dedicated on September 27, 1959. On that occasion, the pastor remarked to the congregation, "Our physical plant is complete. It is beautiful; it is practical! Yet the work has only begun. Every member of the parish must labor diligently in study, in prayer, and devotion to His high calling in order that the spiritual quality of our church, surpass its physical beauty."



Dr. Porter W. Seiwell

Porter Seiwell conducted the Junior Choir, the Singing Juniors, and they sang once a month. He put out a quarterly newsletter.

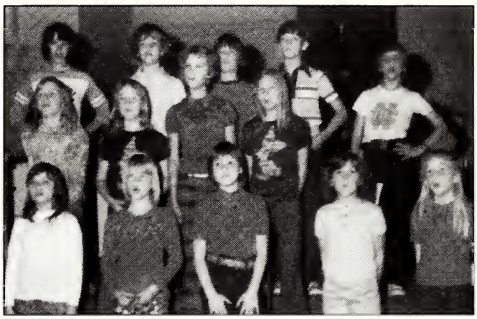
Mrs. Maria Long Seiwell was a very active member during Pastor Seiwell's ministry here and afterward.

She served as a Sunday School teacher, a circle president, and a consistory member.

Dr. Lonnie A. Carpenter, our tenth pastor, came to our church on August 30, 1960, and he faced debts which were paid until June 1969 when the "burning of the note" took place. Additions were made to equipment; the Deweese property was acquired in 1963; the fourth parsonage, the Steen property on South Jackson Street, was purchased in 1966. After the sale of this property in 1978, a housing allowance for the minister replaced the parsonage. During Lonnie's years we got our first full-time secretary, our first youth director, started a play school for three and four year olds,

Dr. Lonnie A. Carpenter

and started PAC, a program of play, activity, and choir for the children of our church. During his tenure, youth representatives began serving as deacons on the consistory. The front of the church was landscaped, and the sanctuary was air conditioned. Radio broadcasts of our service once a month took place, and the Youth began having the Christmas Eve candlelighting service.

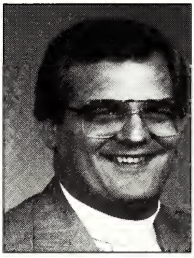


Children Singing

When Dr. Carpenter is remembered today, his smile, his firm handshake, his love for people and for God, his leadership of the Mens' Chorus, and so many other positive thoughts come to mind.

And then there is Jo, who supported his ministry in every way, while taking a personal active role in activities of church women and teaching Sunday School for nearly twenty years. Why, even now, Jo is playing the piano for the Primary Department.

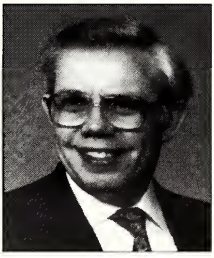
The Reverend Lary G. Diehl began his ministry at our church in October 1980. He incorporated the junior sermon into our Sunday morning worship. Painting needs were addressed. The office was redone and the equipment was upgraded. Programs started earlier continued, and a new one, originating from an Evangelism Committee, began and continues today as Five Alive.



Larry G. Diehl

Rev. Diehl's wife, Carol, also took an active role in Church Women, serving not only as our local president, but also working actively in the conference. Carol also was a dedicated member of the choir.

According to consistory minutes of November 14, 1991, Pastor Bill Griffiths was at this time officially our Interim Pastor, having received approval from the UC Retirement Home in Newton. And what an Interim "Pastor Bill" turned out to be. A seasoned preacher, a dynamic personality, an artist-he sought to bring us together by preaching sermons designed to teach us to love. On May 10, 1992, the 50th anniversary of Pastor Bill's ordination, he preached his final sermon for us. Pastor Bill and his wife, Anna, still have our love.



David Crook

Our present pastor, David Crook, came to us from Davidson County. He was formally installed on October 11, 1992. He brought with him a creative spirit and added drama to our ministry. He continued the children's sermons, calling it A Time with our Children. He had a vision for a Decipleship program

for children, youth, and adults on Sunday night. With the cooperation of the Christian Education Committee and many volunteers, his idea came into being and flourished.

Bentha, Pastor Crook's wife, is active in church women, regularly meeting with two circles. She is also a dedicated choir member.

NAME CHANGES

The HISTORIC SKETCH OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH CAROLINA, by a Board of Editors under the Classis of North Carolina, stated that all monies from the sale of the book were to be used to assist mission charges within the bounds of the classis.

The Heidelberg Catechism is the doctrinal symbol of the Reformed Church.

The Classis of North Carolina, an organizational body of the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, had a good record for giving assistance direct in building a new church. The appropriation to Salisbury was $900.

In 1899 the Classis took action regarding orphan's home. In 1902 Reverend J. M. L. Lyerly was appointed to formulate plans for proposed home. At a special meeting of the Classis in Faith Church, Salisbury, August 3, 1903, this committee made its report, and the classis decided to establish Nazareth Orphan's Home at Crescent, Rowan County. The home was opened December 2, 1906 with five children in the charge of Miss Mary P. Abbott.

According to a 1927 Directory of the First Reformed Church in Salisbury, North Carolina, The Reformed Church in the Unites States; History, teachings, aims—condensed from pamphlet "The Reformed Church in the United States" by Dr. Charles E. Schaeffer, "Prior to the origin of the Reformed Church in Switzerland and France, Christianity consisted of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic churches. Out of Reformation via Zwingli, we can trace organization of these congregations, the Reformed Church in America, back to 1725.

In 1793 congregations organized themselves as the Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States. The Reformed Church in the United States, was adopted as the official title in 1869.

The Classis was organized in 1819. In 1826, the Board of Domestic Missions was set up. There was only one synod at first—but 71 in 1927. In 1927, the Reformed Church had a membership of 350,000, with 1,757 congregations and 1350 ministers—raising annually for congregational purposes, 4,758,795 and for benevolences, 1,915,033.

The Reformed Church has always been known as the church of the Word. It believes that the Bible is the only rule of Faith. Its standard of doctrine is known as the Heidelberg Catechism, which was published in 1563.

Salvation is a gift of God, bestowed by His mercy and grace, not a

reward of the merit of the individual either through works or otherwise. It believes that salvation comes by grace through faith. It has held to the doctrine of the trinity. It recognizes two sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The Reformed Church believes in the immortality of the soul and in the everlasting life.

"It believes in what is today known as social service, which it interprets to mean the application of the Gospel of Jesus to all relationships of human life."

AIMS: ARTICLE 6 OF CONSTITUTION

"It is the duty of church members to live sober, righteous and godly lives, and to labor faithfully in bringing others to Christ. They shall obey the laws and rules of life prescribed in the Word of God and abide by the Constitution of the church, and contribute liberally, in proportion to their means, to the support of the Gospel and for the extention of the Kingdom of Christ. Every member shall attend faithfully the public services of the church and shall engage diligently in private devotions; and those who have been confirmed shall partake of the Lord's Supper at least once a year. Parents shall give special attention to the Christian training of the members of their household."

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED EXPERIENCE

Sheldon E. Mackey, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, Lancaster, Pa., 1980, indicates that the actual life of the E & R Church was 27 years at the most, 1934 to 1957 or 1934 to 1961.

Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in the U. S. merged to create the E&R Church.

The office of Synod President, as it began in the E & R Church, was a part-time job, which was to be done along with the pastoral duties required by congregations served.

The E & R Church was born at the tail end of the economic depression of the 30's. The churches response to the impact of WWII included ministries of healing, compassion and reconciliation. These churches were on a mission around the world.

The church ministered also in homeland. New churches were established. Membership increased. There was remarkable growth in the grace of giving for work at home and abroad.

The congregations, the Synods, and the General Synod functioned without any heavy handed or repressive use of authority or power, in order to magnify the witness and mission of the church in this land and around the world. We were in a Christian partnership.

From the Reformed Church to the E & R Church to the UCC we traversed. The UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, HISTORY AND PROGRAM, declares, "We take seriously the matter of church unity. We take seriously the carrying out of the mission of our Lord. Wherever there are people without the gospel, wherever there are people with need, wherever there is sin, greed, injustice, strife, hatred-there the United Church of Christ is bound by her Lord to witness, to serve, to help, to rebuild, to reconcile. We belong to Christ and we dare do no less than to follow where He leads.

The United Church of Christ is a church of the people-the church is people gathered for worship, work, and witness.

With the formation of the UCC, two streams of faith were united. Two denominations which had known fellowship for some years, exchanged fraternal greetings and representatives in their assemblies and carried on joint mission work, were now one.

According to The Board of World Ministries, Alford Caleton, Executive VP, "mission for Christians is not an elective, but an obligation, an outflow of discipleship."

GOVERNING BODY

Although the church originated with one deacon and one elder, by 1907, it was decided to have six members on the consistory. By 1917, the number on the consistory changed to 8 and later to 10. Today the Council is scheduled to have twenty members plus the preacher and two youth representatives.

CELEBRATIONS

On May 11, 1931 the 25th birthday of our church was celebrated. It is reported that Reverend Samuel Kirk, a ministerial son of the congregation preached on the topic of "The Duty of the Church in the Modern World." He is quoted as saying "Let peace and goodwill reign among us; let us each have a mind to work, and may our highest and holiest desire be to serve Him faithfully to the end."

Our fortieth anniversary, in 1936, was celebrated with a week of services, 9/27/1936 thru 10/4/1936. Reverend Fitz opened with a historical message. Then, three former pastors filled the pulpit for one night each: Reverend C. C. Wagoner, Reverend W. H. Causey, and Reverend Banks J. Peeler.

According to a 9/22/71 newsletter, the date of October 10, 1971, was set for the 75th anniversary celebration. Dr. James Lightbourne, conference minister, will be featured speaker. The Anniversary Committee included the following: Mrs. Edwin Alcorn, Narvie Lee Bonds, Martin Shotzberger, John Robinson, Jr., Jimmy Lyerly, Catherine Whitener, and

Pastor Emeritus Service Participants

our pastor, Lonnie A. Carpenter.

On June 6, 1982, Dr. Lonnie Carpenter was installed as Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Porter Seiwell delivered the sermon, titled "Yuh Done Good!"

Participants were Edwin Alcorn, Area Minister; Porter Seiwell, Campus Pastor Emeritus; Stephen Wurster; James Cress; Harold Isenberg; Eric Norris, Consistory President; Janet Rhodes, President, Church Women; Chancel choir; Jean Ramsey; Ralph Bostian; and Lary Diehl, Pastor.

The Ninetieth Anniversary Celebration of the First United Church of Christ was held on June 29, 1986. Lary G. Diehl served as pastor, Dr. Lonnie A. Carpenter was pastor emeritus, Lugene Cox was director of music, and Ralph A. Bostian was organist. The Anniversary Committee was comprised of the History Room Committee, representatives from the circles, Pastor Diehl, and the President of the Consistory.

Dr. Richard Cheek celebrated the 40th year of his ordination in 1990.

TRIBUTES TO DR. CARPENTER

In 1978 Dr. Lonnie Carpenter was honored? at a Roasting.

On Easter Sunday, 1980, Dr. Lonnie Carpenter's last Sunday, He and Mrs. Carpenter were presented with a silver bowl and an auto, a Chrysler LeBaron, an outward sign that the love he gave to all was returned by the First Church Family.

HONORS BESTOWED

On November 29, 1954, the consistory moved and approved the making of Mr. M. C. Barnhardt, Sr. "a life member of this body" by a standing vote. Thus, Mr. Barnhardt was named Elder Emeritus.

Hub Lyerly was given the status Elder Emeritus according to minutes of 10/7/71. At Hub's death in September 1973, Jimmy Lyerly was made treasurer of the Building Fund. In October of 1973, Bill Greenland was given the job of making arrangements for communion as Hub had done for years.

1/6/71 Miss Margie Lyerly was honored last Sunday morning during Sunday School for her 40 plus years as teacher. A beautiful reproduction of "Christ and the Children" by Endre Komaromi-Kacz, was hung in the nursery in her honor. Inscribed "In honor of Miss Margie Lyerly who loves children. This event was sponsored by Circle 6 of Church Women.

Miss Margie Lyerly shared Jesus and love with the nursery age children of our church from her teen years on to the end of 1995. Miss Margie remembers moving to Salisbury in 1920 and getting involved in the church and with Sunday School. Miss Margie credits her mother with suggesting that she find out each child's birthday and do something special for each one. Her something special turned out to be more individual birthday cakes than she could even guess the number of. It was only fitting that Miss Margie Lyerly was honored with a birthday cake at our Friendship luncheon held on October 25, 1992 in her honor. At this time it was announced that the nursery classroom is to be designated as the Margie Lyerly Nursery Room.

Miss Frances Lyerly (l) and sister, Miss Margie Lyerly (r) enjoy a humerous moment at the Friendship Luncheon in 1992.

Mrs. Homer (Edith) Bonds, a faithful servant.

In 1971 the consistory accepted a $15,000 goal from the Retirement Home over a three-year period. This would go toward the main entrance and reception area. It was designated in honor of Mrs. Homer Bonds in recognition of long and faithful service to First Church and the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, where she served as receptionist and dietition for 17 years.

A 2/9/72 newsletter indicated that special honors were bestowed at last Sunday's Family Night. "Mrs. Juanita Bradley was honored by the choir and other members of the congregation for 50 years of service to our Music Department as organist, choir director, and faithful choir member. Mrs. Robert Crook, Mrs. D. E. Faust, Mrs. Geneva Kirk, and Mr. Ralph Bostian were given special recognition for having served in the choir for 25 years or more." Several numbers were sung by the choir and a male quartet.

Choir Rehearsal, 1954

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Choir, circa 1977

In the early years Sunday School attendance was often in the hundreds. There was competition for leadership positions in the Sunday School. We have samples of printed ballots which were used for electing individuals to head various departments.

According to Sunday School records, during the time period 1946 - 1963, every third Sunday offering was turned over to the Building Fund. In 1952, the estate of Eliza Marsh Murdock in the amound of $15,000, passed through the Sunday School.

During the Porter Seiwell years, a new college class, with 40 members, was begun. Dr. Seiwell also had the college students helping in various other classes.

All during the years of saving prior to beginning the new church and during the years of paying after building the church, the Sunday School gave all received on each third Sunday to the cause. Fred Warlick served as treasurer. Dan Warlick continued the work of his father.

Average church school attendance in 1956 was 212.

In 1957 the Shive Philathea Class had 50 members. They were already doing birthday calendars at the time. They paid for the stove in the church kitchen. Also, they had a desk made for the class in memory of Mrs. J. L. Fisher.

According to an article on First Church, Salisbury, written in the year 1939, the J. D. Holshouser Baraca Class held its annual Father and Son Banquet in the church on Thursday, November 23. The president, E. Dermot Weaver, acted as toastmaster. Rev. John C. Peeler toasted the sons and J. C. Peeler, Jr. responded with a toast to the fathers. About eighty men and boys were present and enjoyed the delicious turkey dinner prepared and served by the ladies of the Shives Philathea Class. It is documented that this class was called the Men's Bible Class in 1957. Dr. David Faust was a long-time teacher of this class.

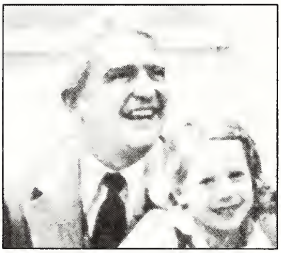
The Men's Bible Class, in 1957, had 36 members. They gave $365 to pay off finishing basement assembly room.

The Jr. Philathea Class, with 12 members and 2 teachers, served chicken pie dinners to Carolina Maid and North Carolina Finishing. In

1953, they were working very hard adding to their organ fund. Mrs. Bill Weaver was president, Mrs. Elmer Lagg was vice-president, Mrs. Walter Shoaf was secretary, Miss Marie Barringer was treasurer, and Mrs. James Clary was building fund treasurer. In September of 1954, this class reported that they had $1700 toward the purchase of an organ. Later, this class is credited with raising $4,200 dollars for the Moeller organ. Mrs. Gerney Holshouser, Ralph Bostian, and Professor John Fesperman of the Music Committee were appointed to check into the purchase of an organ.

The Dearborn Bible Class served the Finance Committee three times, served the Scout Banquet, and served the Catawba students.

In 1955, Reverend Josh Levens was the teacher of the Young Married Couples class and Romas Shuping was class president. In 1956, the Young Married Couples class sponsored hamburger suppers, and sold candy and knives. This class took two rooms on the first floor as a project to finish. They paid $85.97 toward materials for these two rooms and made a new nativity scene. Narvie Bonds was the president of the class during this year.



Harold Isenberg and his granddaughter, Jill.

In 1966 this class changed its name to the Isenberg Class in honor of their long-time, faithful teacher, Harold Isenberg. Johnny Walser was president of the class that year.

In 1996, the Men's Bible Class, the Isenberg Class, and the Shive Philathea class have merged into one. On the scene is a new Issues Class, as well as the Dearborn Class and the Upper Room Class.

In 1959 there were 20 children on roll in the Nursery Department, 19 children on roll in the Kindergarten Department, and 18 children on roll in the Primary Department.

PROGRAMS

In 1925, Bible School started.

In 1956, Porter Seiwell directed Daily Vacation Bible School.

The idea of a week day kindergarten at our church was first discussed at a consistory meeting in June 1969. At that time a committee including Ralph Bostian, Reid Grimes, and Harold Isenberg was appointed to investigate.

Play School at First United Church of Christ got its start on October 5, 1971, with 19 children attending. The first teachers were our very own Mildred Warlick and Eleanor Peeler. The consistory authorized the expenditure of $300 for operation of the Play School. Mrs. Norman Beck and Mrs. Ray Fleming were assistants. A quote from the first play

school report follows: "We try to help the children become more aware of God's wondrous world."

In June 1974, 75 parents and children attended the end of term play school picnic. Mildred Warlick and Barbara Beck served as teachers at this time.In the year 1975, when Mildred Warlick and Barbara Beck resigned, Anna Cress and Mary Roakes continued the play school program.

Play School, 1971-72

The concept of play school was changed to preschool. Currently, only one church member works with the preschool, Debbie Johnson. She teaches music, and Bonnie Marsh and Debi Key handle the remainder of the curriculum.

September 1973 marked the beginning of PAC on Wednesdays at 4:00. Key 73 Leader Loretta Hipp and the Music Committee worked to form this program allowing time for play, activity, and choir. The first paid Pac Director was Dellene Markey. Later, Kay Corriher worked with this group, followed by Sarah Holtom Hollifield, Janie Lesley, and Cindy Trexler.

The Sunday night children's program, initiated under Reverend David Crook's leadership, along with the Christian Education Committee, changed the timing of this activity, but still allowed for supper, activities, and Cherub Choir, with first Traci Nolen and now Lonnie Carpenter as choir directors. Sarah Schiemann, Linda Alexander, Kathy Brown, Cindy Trexler, Patricia Norris, Karen Carpenter, and Debbie Johnson, Youth Director, have all worked with this group.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Paul Bonds and Mrs. Sterling Whitener, our participation in the Meals on Wheels program began in 1976.

Senior Citizens Club held its organizational meeting on March 16, 1976.

In 1982, The United Senior Citizens Club met the 2nd Thursday at 11 a.m., with Sadie Husbands as its first president. Mag Bonds was vice president; Mrs. Glenn Snider was secretary/treasurer; Elizabeth Ludwick was pianist; and Margaret Earnhardt was assistant pianist. The club started with 18 members and in its first year grew to 37. The name has been changed to Primetimers, but the group still meets.

At the January 1981 Consistory Meeting, Herb Rhodes, Chairman of the Evangelism Committee, presented a report for that committee which met Jan 5. A special benevolent outreach program, beyond our normal giving and involving all ages in our church, was suggested. All interested people in our church, it is hoped would give a small designated amount of money on a regular monthly basis, to be set up in a fund for

needy persons, either within or outside our church family in the community.

At the February 1981 meeting, Herb Rhodes, Chairman of the Evangelism Committee, gave a report on the meeting. They are working out details for the Five Alive Fund, so named because by many people, giving one $5 per month, much can be done, and hope can live.

At the March 1981 Consistory meeting, the Five Alive Evangelism program was approved, contingent upon the congregation's approval.

At a congregational meeting on March 15, 1981, the concept of Five Alive was presented and approved. It was decided that envelopes need to be printed in connection with the Five Alive giving.

WORK OF THE WOMEN

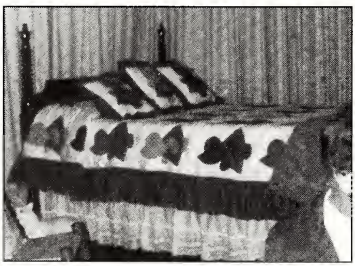
On April 20, 1902, it was moved and carried that Woman's Missionary Society be organized.

In 1916, the Ladies were given permission to sell food at a Fair Booth.

On April 2, 1917, The WMS was granted use of parsonage rent if they collected.

Circle # 1, The Jennie Lyerly Circle, dates from 1932. Original leaders included the following: Mrs. J. M. L. Lyerly, Leader; Mrs. C. M. C. Barger, Assistant; Mrs. Milton Whitener, Secretary; and Mrs. H. O. Omwake, Treasurer.

In the 1930's older members of the Girls Guild branched out into a 4th Circle, the Mary Marden Faust Circle, started by Mrs. Shuford Peeler and Mrs. George Fitz. This circle has always been an active group and is currently under the leadership of Mary Dearborn. For years they carried on a successful Balsam Wreath project. Then, in 1992, they encouraged all church women to get involved. The balsam was a gift of Sterling & Barbara Whitener. The Church Women cleared over $900 on the project.



Quilt from Church Bazaar in 1980.

In 1946 another circle, the Mildred Levens Circle, #5, was formed in the same way. This circle split in January 1959 because of size. At this time Circle 6 came into being. The first leader, in 1960, was Mrs. David Nolen.

1980 - Ralph and Louise Bostian at the Country Store (Bazaar).

In 1978 Circle 5 asked permission to

stock a food pantry in our church, to be controlled by the women of the circle. It will be used to help needy people due to fires, sickness or other causes. The food is to be distributed through the Social Services Department.

The Women's Guild was organized on October 3, 1934.

In 1939, the membership was 34. By 1947, the number had increased to 107. (This organization took place as the Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Union of the Evangelical Church of America converged.)

1953 and 1954 were two years of hard work for church women. Mrs. W. H. Roberts was president in 1953, and Mrs. John Robinson was president in 1954. In 1953, the women gave $3,750.50 to the building fund.

In 1955 Mrs. Levens was President of the Guild. During this time $2,500 was given from the circles to the Building Fund.

In 1956 the women collected 342 pounds of clothing for World Service. They also earned and gave $2844 to the Building Fund.

In June 1956, Circle #2 was named the Mary Fisher Circle at the death of its leader, Mrs. J. L. Fisher. Mrs. Fisher was the mother of Juanita Lagg and Willard Fisher.

According to 10/12/1989 consistory minutes, Circle 2 was to use money collected from their recycling of glass and aluminum for shutters in the fellowship hall. Their quote of $800 included paint and installation.

In 1957 Mrs. David Faust was President of the Women's Guild. There were 100 active members in 5 circles. The Women's Guild gave $2400 to the Building Fund that year, having had an annual bazaar and turkey dinner as a benefit.

It seems that every circle was involved with food service as a means of raising money in 1957. Circle One served two meals to the brotherhood; Circle 2, the Mary Fisher Circle, served one meal at NC Finishing, three meals at Carolina Maid, one meal for the brotherhood, four chicken pie sales, a cake sale, a white elephant sale, and sold rubber scrubbers. As Circle 2's special project, they raised $595.77 to buy a kitchen counter and sink. Over and above this, they gave the Building Fund $62.45. Circle three gave $125 to the dish fund and $250 to the Building Fund. Circle 4 gave $300 to the Building Fund, served the Yadkin Lions Club, the brotherhood, sold notebook paper and scouring pads. Circle 5 gave $325 to the Building Fund.

February 1959 was the first meeting of Circle 6. Membership grew from 14 to 20. This circle has published three different church cookbooks, in 1977, 1985, and 1994. The funds from the earlier cookbooks went into a van fund, which was carried for years; Then, when it became apparent that a van was not going to become a reality, the van fund was converted into a new piano for the fellowship hall. Circle 6 sponsored Easter Egg hunts for at least seven years in the 1970's, and

Polly Holshouser Sunday School Class

has sponsored Easter Egg hunts for four years in the 1990's.

Circle 7 was organized in 1969. They call themselves Polly's Pals and have named their circle the Polly Holshouser Circle in her honor. Over the years they have produced Mother's Day and Father's Day bulletins, decorated the ladies bathroom downstairs, and completed a 35 square afghan with cross stitched flowers of the holy land.

1963 reported six active circles with 110 active members. Mrs. Donald Dearborn served as President. Circle 1 was chaired by Mrs. John Robinson, Sr.; Circle 2 chairman was Mrs. Rufus Cohen; Mrs. Glenn Snider was chairman of Circle 3; Mrs. Lamont Barnhardt was chairman of Circle 4; Mrs. Bill Greenland was chairman of Circle 5; and Mrs. Narvie Lee Bonds was chairman of Circle 6.

In 1966 Mabel Barnhardt was installed as treasurer of our church women. (She remains treasurer in 1996.) Mabel replaced Mrs. George Coleman who had served for 20 years.

Out of a small circle meeting in January 1980 came the decision that Circle 6 would sponsor a bazaar. Mildred Warlick and Mary Hipp co-chaired the event, and they succeeded in getting everybody involved. Louise Barnhardt was in charge of Christmas decorations, Sarah Shuping was in charge of the kitchen, Marianne Morgan was in charge of macrame, Mott Arey and Betty Jean Brittain were in charge of the quilt, Lois Robinson was in charge of needlepoint and aprons, Mary Roakes was in charge of woodcrafts, Carolyn Cline and Sarah Shuping were in charge of cross stitch, Frances Barnhardt was in charge of crochet, Sara Thomason was in charge of plants, Maria Seiwell was in charge of attic treasures, Lynda Snipes and Stella Isenberg were in charge of art, Janet Rhodes was in charge of communication, Diane Goodnight was in charge of tickets, Janet Carpenter was in charge of waitresses, and Mabel Barnhardt and Addie Campbell were treasurers. The bazaar was held on October 25, 1980; Lunch was served from 12-2:00; and funds were dispersed as follows: Fuel, $500; Refurbishing upstairs parlor, $2,006.41; downstairs parlor, $500; electric range, $260; water supply for Poza, Guatemala, $500; RCCM, $200; steeple, $50; van fund, $500; and future bazaars, $50.

There were many bazaars before this one, and there have been many since, but this was an example of a handful of people starting something that involved many, many people.

WORK OF THE MEN

The Brotherhood was first organized on 10/27/44 by Reverend Fitz and twenty-four men. The Women's Guild prepared their meal. It was decided to meet on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m., with the supper to be served at 75 cents per plate. First officers included the following: President, Dermot Weaver; Vice President, J. J. Gminder; Secretary-Treasurer, N. O. Ribelin; and Assistant, W. H. Lyerly.

On 12/1/44 The Churchmen's Brotherhood met at 7:30 p.m. with 25 members present and enjoyed a steak supper, served by the Women's Guild in the basement of the church.

In 1957, the Brotherhood, with Ralph Bostian as chairman, assisted in completion of the Sunday School plant.

In the 90's the Men's Fellowship has returned to the practice of having regular monthly supper meetings and attending District Men's Fellowship meetings. Once or twice a year they continue to sponsor Ham Suppers.

Men singing at Fellowship Meeting.

For the first few years of this program, meals were prepared for children and youth on the first and third Sunday evenings and for the men on the first Sunday. Currently meals are furnished on the first Sunday for the children and youth, and for the men. On the third Sunday nights, the children and youth have family night meals, or meals planned by Youth Director, Debbie Johnson.

Meal preparation has been directed by Herb Rhodes, with the helping hands of Bill and Joyce Trexler, Romas and Sarah Shuping, George and Barbara Kincaid, Paul Isenberg, Carolyn Cline, Patricia Norris, Patti Marion, Jackye Nolen, Missy Alcorn, Edith Alcorn, and Janet Rhodes.

Mission Band, circa 1940 or 1941

WORK OF THE YOUTH

In the early days of the church, the Children's Department was organized as a Mission Band.

Girls from 12-14 to 24 were part of the Girls' Guild. From the 1920's to the 1950's there

was a Girls' Guild.

Girl Scout Troop #67 got its start in 1954. It was sponsored by the Women's Guild which gave $25 per year to this group.

The Youth Fellowship was organized in the 1940's. Miss Mabel Barnhardt was a "faithful counselor for more than a decade."

In 1953 Johnny Robinson was president of the Youth Fellowship, which had regular Sunday night and Wednesday night meetings. This group also contributed to the building fund.

The church was open to teenagers every Wednesday night in 1957 for ping pong and dancing. The youth also had picnics and hayrides, and they had a juke box!

In 1955 a Cub Scout group was sponsored by the Young Adults Class.

The Dearborn Bible Class sponsored a Cub Scout den with six members in 1957. Boy Scout troop #445, sponsored by the brotherhood, had 18 members. Scout master was Burt Roberts and assistant scout master was J. S. J. Horton. The Boy Scout troop was active from 1954 until 1958.

In the summer of 1959, the church school moved from the old church house to the new educational building. The old church house was then torn down.

In 1967 First United Church of Christ sponsored the United Christian Campus Fellowship for students at Catawba. The vice president of this group was Ken Clapp.

On September 4, 1969, Dr. Carpenter reported that Larry Bolick would meet with the approximately 50 young people of our church for the first time Sunday night. His remuneration was to be $100 per month. The youth were also advised by David Harrison, Addie Campbell and Betty Burner Turner. Many of our members have at one time or another served as Youth Fellowship Directors. Bill Shockley followed Larry Bolick in 1971. Bill was assisted by Sue Starks and Glenda Brown. Dellene Markey was Youth Director in 1975, and Vick Bost began his work with the youth in 1976. At a November 2, 1978 consistory meeting, at a presentation of Youth Fellowship news, Vick Bost mentioned that meetings were resumed in August with a cook-out at his house, with members and their parents invited to attend. September featured a weekend retreat at Blowing Rock with the theme, "Christ in our Lives." October 15, a district meeting was held at our church with approximately 100 young people and their leaders present. A spaghetti supper was served. Also, in October, the members attended the Catawba-Elon football game, followed by a hayride and a cook-out at the Foreman's Club in Yadkin. October also featured a trip to the Haunted House in Faith. In November a trip to the Southern Christmas Show was planned, and they were also scheduled to have a presentation from Bob Martin on revenuing.

In the early 80's, Frank Goodnight served as Interim Director. Janie

Lesley worked with this group during the 1980's also. Joe Lyerly directed the youth for a time also. Candy Miller, Linda Alexander, and Mike Rhodes have also worked with the Youth Fellowship.

WORDS

The 1928 Directory of the First Reformed Church of Salisbury, N. C., 124 West Horah Street, Phone 183-J, page 10, states very succinctly the objective of the church, which is to serve mankind. "In serving humanity, it fulfills the plan of God." "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

From the resignation of Banks J. Peeler on September 8, 1932, written to Mr. B. D. Arey, secretary of the consistory, flowed the following beautiful words: "In presenting this resignation, I am conscious of the presence here of a very high type of sacrificial loyalty to the kingdom of God. During the 8 1/2 years of laboring together, nothing has been more encouraging than the fine spirit of goodwill, and the manifest desire on the part of the leadership, and the larger part of the membership, to make central in personal, social, and business life the principles of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"You Done Good" was the frequent expression of appreciation used by Porter Seiwell. Another quote, from his 1957 Annual Report was "The church fellowship has a large number of tithers; may their tribe increase."

In the 1968 Annual Report, Dr. Carpenter stated the following: "The purpose of the Christian Church is to worship God as revealed through Jesus Christ, by word and sacrament, and then to give one's self in service to God and our fellowmen."

Dr. Lonnie Carpenter's letter in our 1970 Annual Report contains a statement of epic proportion: "Perhaps the greatest danger to the Church of Jesus Christ in our time is the seeming indifference of many people who have taken solemn vows in the past and now do little about them. This is true whether we talk about the giving of selves, the use of talents, or money, the attending of worship services, use of sacraments, or the gift of ourselves in service to our fellowman."

SPECIAL TRIBUTES

On July 7, 1946, Sterling H. Whitener was commissioned to China for Missionary work. A reception by the Guild followed the service.

Jennie Lyerly, the wife of J. M. L. Lyerly, the lady for whom Circle One (no longer active) is named—a lady with children of her own, took care of other people's children in her home. And then, she and her husband actually began Nazareth Orphanage. She later moved to Salisbury and was an active member of First Reformed Church. Her son left a

trust fund to Nazareth Children's Home.

M. C. Barnhardt, Sr. gave all the lumber that went into the building of this church. The lumber was cut from his farm. This was described as virgin timber, with some trees being 100 years old. When the wood was taken in to be cut, Mr. Barnhardt was offered other lumber for the church and a sizable amount of money as well, but he insisted that he had promised the very best to God. Later, the boy scouts in our church troop # 445, which was started by the Brotherhood in July 1953, planted 5,000 replacement seedlings on Mr. Barnhardt's farm.

Hub Lyerly served as Chairman of the Building Fund for 35 years.

In November 1953, Mr. W. R. Bostian was named Elder Emeritus.

Lillie Lentz made Children's Choir robes, reported finished in 3/69. By June of 1969 she was making new robes for the consistory to wear at communion services.

On June 6, 1982, Dr. Lonnie Carpenter was installed as Pastor Emeritus.

At the 8/5/82 Consistory Meeting, the Brag Kitchen Committee, Juanita Lagg, Chair, sought to raise funds to honor Mr. & Mrs. Homer Bonds for 18 years service.

In 1983, $15,000 was raised to provide kitchen equipment for the new facility at Brag, in honor of two of our members, Mr. & Mrs. Homer Bonds. The dedication was May 29, 1983.

In February 1984, a reception honoring Dr. & Mrs. Alcorn for faithful service to the church and to Western N. C. Association. Dr. Alcorn was Associate Conference minister for seventeen years.

In September 1984, a service of affirmation for Rev. & Mrs. Sterling Whitener was held. They went to Taiwan to serve a short term for the United Church Board for World Ministries.

In October 1984, we welcomed our new Associate Conference Minister, Dr. Richard Cheek, at a special installation service.

On January 7, 1990, a service recognizing Ralph Bostian as Organist Emeritus was held. The Music Committee was in charge of a luncheon reception.

On April 6, 1992, Reverend Alan C. Miller was installed as Associate Conference Minister in the Omwake-Dearborn Chapel.

Special tribute must be given to those decorators in our midst, who routinely, year after year, use those special talents which God has given them—Stella Isenberg, Louise Barnhardt, Juanita Lagg, Mary Austin, Elaine Richards, Mott Arey, Lucy Robinson, Millie Campbell, Nancy Bonds, and Melissa Alcorn.

SERVICE BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH

In 1962, Mrs. Hoy Fisher received the first Synodical Award for her poem "At My Church."

According to our 1966 Annual Report, on November 12, 1966, an organizational meeting of Church Women of the UCC Southern Conference was held in Burlington. Mrs. Elmer Lagg was a delegate, and Mrs. Edwin Alcorn, Mrs. D. C. Dearborn, Mrs. Banks Peeler, and Mrs. Porter Seiwell attended. As of 12/31/1966, the Catawba Regional and Southern Synodical Women's Guild would no longer be in existence. Mrs. Alcorn was elected 1st vice president of the new organization.

A 12/10/69 newsletter states "Our congregation is unusual in that we have three of our most faithful and consecrated members serving on denominational boards: Harold Isenberg, a member of the Executive Council; Edith Alcorn, a member of the Board of Homeland Ministries; and Mary Dearborn, a member of the Board for World Ministries."

Dr. Lonnie A. Carpenter did much work in the Synod, the General Synod, and the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. He served as Chairman of the Board of Johns River Camp; Chairman of Kingdom Service Committee; Chairman of Trustees of Synod; President of Southern Synod of the E. & R. Church 1948-1951; Vice-President of the Southern Synod 1955-1959; delegate to General Synod 1947, 1950, 1953, 1956, 1959, 1961; delegate to Uniting Synods 1957, 1959, 1961; Member of the Board of Nazareth Children's Home; member of Commission of Higher Education of E. & R. Church; delegate to N.C. Council of Churches; past President; member of the Board of Trustees of Catawba College; member of the Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Theological Seminary; President of Western North Carolina Association of the U.C.C. 1971-1973; member of the Executive Council of the Southern Conference of the U. C. C. 1971-1973; and delegate to the General Synod from Southern Conference in 1973 and 1975.

SPECIAL FUND DRIVES, VOTES AND NOTES

2/25/70 newsletter indicated that the coming Sunday there would be an ingathering for $3500 in needed funds.

3/28/76 113 members favored paving the church parking area to the side and behind the church. 34 members opposed.

67 favored the purchase of a church bus; 78 opposed.

6/76 A special fund drive was to be held for paving.

12/7/78 Javis Arey reported for the property committee. A new 1,000 gallon tank has been installed by Cohen's and the old one abandoned. 780 gallons of fuel has been pumped into the new tank.

7/7/79 President Bonds reported on the Southern Conference Meeting. Dr. Carpenter was honored for serving on the Lancaster Seminary Board for 21 years.

11/1/79 It was voted to have a $2,000 Thanksgiving Drive.

STEEPLE

At a congregational meeting on 9/14/80, it was stated that repairs were needed to the church steeple. There was significant water damage in steeple. Estimates from Wagoner Contractors on cost of repairs to include some aluminum covering were $20,247. It was voted to allow the trustees to borrow not more than 21,000 for this.

Total steeple repairs, as of 7/22/81, amounted to $19,329.59.

The steeple is currently being repaired again.

PARSONAGES & PROPERTY

On September 23, 1906, a new parsonage on Horah Street was proposed, a two-story frame building. On 10/7/1906, the borrowing of $1500 at 5% interest for the purpose of building a parsonage was approved. After the parsonage was finished, it was rented for $200 per year, paid monthly.

On 12/1/1919 the mortgage on the parsonage was burned by F. M. Holshouser. He had burned the church mortgage several years back.

In the 20's there was a discussion of relocating to West Innes Street, and an option was taken on a lot at the Northeast corner of West Innes and North Ellis Street. Dr. August Lantz, dean of women at Catawba, contributed a check of $30 which represented rent money on certain property. Mrs. Freda Gardner Holshouser, a tither, made a contribution of $25, ear-marked for church. They were looking ahead...ahead 30 years. (A Story of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.)

The church became self-supporting on October 1, 1928.

On 1/27/29, the congregation voted to buy the Miller house, property adjoining the East side of the parsonage. By this time, the church had grown to a confirmed membership of a few more than 300. The Miller property was offered to the Sunday School.

At a meeting of the consistory on April 4, 1935, it was moved and seconded to express appreciation of the congregation for the gift of the new reading desk presented by W. R. Bostian, who furnished the materials, Luther Fisher who made the desk, and Mr. Iva Holshouser who painted and finished it.

Mr. Bostian also furnished the materials for enlaying the pulpit platform. This work was done by Luther Fisher, Stafford Bailey, and J. E. Holshouser.

The consistory also expressed appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Bradley for the new altar and the gold cross. Mr. & Mrs. Bradley gave the materials, the work was done by Luther Fisher and Iva Holshouser.

The above mentioned 1935 gifts were dedicated to the service and worship of the church by the pastor on Palm Sunday, April 14, 1935.

The ministry of Reverend Joshua L. Levens was marked by physical and material expansion. He came September 14, 1945. A new parsonage was purchased on West Bank Street, and the old one was converted into an educational facility. In 1951 the Bank Street parsonage was sold for $15,050.

On the first Sunday in January 1953, the congregation had Holy Communion in the old church and then went in a body to the new church lot for the Ground Breaking Service.

Groundbreaking, 1953

According to a 1954 report of the Building Committee by Donald C. Dearborn, all plumbing and heating work had been done by Cohen on the basis of cost of labor and materials, plus 10% handling charge. This amounted to about half of the contract price. In addition, Mr. Cohen donated the last bill of $1,418.22 and further heating and drainage work done since that time.

Likewise, G. B. Weaver & Sons had done all electrical work for cost of labor and materials, plus 10%.

Work on the Assembly Hall, known to us today as the Fellowship Hall, was done by men of the church. Luther Fisher and Narvie Bonds served as overseers.

New Church Construction, 1953

According to the 1958 Annual Report by Rev. Porter Seiwell, the men of the church had given time and labor to the second floor project, which was now ready for plumbing and heating. There was still plastering to be done and floors to be laid.

1962 was the year the driveway from Monroe Street was built.

On February 23, 1966, the consistory recommended purchase of the Steen house for $27,600, and the Peeler lot for $2,500. $29,000 would be borrowed at 6% interest with payments of $207.77 per month.

In a September 6, 1967 Mid-week Newsletter, it was stated that Bill Weaver had spent 3 days last week, with his machine, tearing down the remainder of the old parsonage. On Monday, Narvie Bonds brought in more equipment, loaned by Wagoner Construction

Dr. Paul Dearborn and Mr. Paul Propst, 1951

and helped him complete the job. Others who assisted were Council Brown and Charles Culp, Jr.

Homer Bonds and James Wells removed the garage on the property recently acquired from Reverend Edwin Short.

On June 15, 1969, a Mortgage Burning Service was held. Former Pastor, Joshua Levens was on hand to share experiences.

In 1977, when Chub Richards appointed a committee to study the feasibility of selling the parsonage, total 1977 expenses for the parsonage were $4,776.50.

Mrs. R.J. Kirk, Sr. Financial Secretary, Narvie Lee Bonds, President of Congregation, Dr. Lonnie Carpenter, Minister, Rev. Joshua A. Levens, Former Minister, and Hub C. Lyerly, Treasurer-Building Fund, burn the mortgage.

A letter dated July 17, 1978 reported a vote of 122 to 15 to sell the parsonage. John Robinson, Jr., Paul Propst, Dan Warlick, and Billy Snipes were to appraise the property and take steps to place it upon the real estate market. When a firm offer was made, the trustees of the congregation were to proceed with the disposal of the home. The net proceeds of the sale were to be invested in such a manner to reward the congregation with the highest possible yield of their investment. "Whatever the amount of this fund might be, it will never be disposed of in any way without a vote of the congregation." The interest only would be applied to the housing allowance.

On August 19, 1979, the consistory received price quotes from Pritchard Paint and Glass Company for 78 white aluminum double track storm windows with 1/2 screen at a total cost of $1560 or $20 per window. Painting and windows combined will cost $2,560. Installation would be taken care of by church members. It was also stated that Wagoner Construction Company had billed us for $3,524.48. As of July 31, the Ramp Fund balance was $3,751.71. There was to be no railing on the ramp for five to six weeks. Rufus Cohen and Lamont Barnhardt have pledged to take care of the rail bill. The consistory meeting closed with praises to Rufus Cohen and Narvie Bonds for all their work.

According to October 1989 consistory minutes, K. W. Arthur & Sons has given a ten year guarantee on the church roof work which recently cost $18,900.

TRADITIONS

On April 26, 1925, Reverend Banks J. Peeler began the use of church bulletins.

Reverend Fitz requested use of white flowers in altar vases on Communion Sundays. In 1944 Reverend Fitz initiated a Joint Bible School with the Methodist Church. This lasted two years, 1944 and 1945. However, the Joint Thanksgiving Services with the Methodist Church began in 1944 and are still held today.

In 1946 Reverend Joshua Levens held a Congregational Meeting—Picnic Supper, at which time various leaders of the church gave reports. Virginia Harvey (now Virginia Greenland) reported for the Youth Fellowship as its President.

At the request of Reverend Levens, the Consistory voted in 1954 to buy a Revised Version of the Bible for each member of the Confirmation Class. The practice of giving a Bible to each confirmand continues today. The Men of the Church currently make this presentation.

Pastor Seiwell inititiated the use of the Rosebud on the Altar following each new birth in the congregation. All rosebuds have been furnished free by Harrison's Florist. Establishment of the minister's cabinet, establishment of a Junior Choir, the Singing Juniors, directed by Porter Seiwell, and a 2 year study for confirmands also began while Porter Seiwell served as pastor. It was during this time that women were first elected to serve as elders and deacons. Also, the practice of using acolytes began. The first two acolytes used were Phillip Kirk and Richard Seiwell.

The beautiful Chrismons we enjoy every year decorated our sanctuary for the first time in December of 1967. According to a 12/13/67 Mid-week Newsletter, the Chrismon tree is decorated with 200 symbols, made by forty church women since last March. Total cost of the project was stated as $125.

Chrismon Trees

Mrs. Lamont Barnhardt (Louise), has served as co-chairman of the project and has personally cut out all symbols. The tree was cut and brought in by Narvie Lee Bonds and Council Brown. It was fire-proofed by John Robinson, Sr. The stand was made by Willard Fisher. The 460 lights represent the membership of the church. The decorating was done by Narvie Bonds, Council Brown, Charles Culp, Jr., James Wells, Bill Weaver, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Isenberg, Mrs. Lamont Barnhardt, Mrs. Elmer Lagg, Mrs. Lonnie Carpenter, and Linda Weaver. This required seven hours.

Dr. Lonnie Carpenter asked that the elders greet people as they entered the church. He also initiated a Men's Chorus which he led in singing many times over the years.

Pastor Diehl began the use of a special church bulletin for children. He also incorporated the Junior Sermon into our church service.

According to the 1982 Annual Report, Church Women began the practice of having a Recognition Sunday for those who had joined the church, for infants baptized during the year and their parents, for new babies and their parents and for newlyweds. Recognition Sunday is still sponsored every year by Church Women.

DO YOU REMEMBER?
A GLIMPSE AT THE PAST THRU MINUTES, NEWSLETTERS...

11/20/1886 Both Faith and Emanuel were considered for the church name. Faith Reformed Church of Salisbury was accepted as the first name.

11/20/1886 Mrs. W. H. Stubblebine was made treasurer of the Building Fund.

2/8/1897 An order was made on the Church treasurer for $2.25 for the Pastor's expense to Classis.

4/19/1897 The treasurer was ordered to pay the traveling expenses of Clapp, Leonard, and Davis to the installation of pastor. According to H. C. Corriher, Secretary, expenses amounted to $1.90.

5/29/1897 The Consistory was formally empowered as a building committee, and under this commission the Consistory acted during the remaining period of Reverend Stubblebine's pastorate.

1/13/1898 After 8 months, the Consistory met again, at the residence of H. C. Corriher. Reverend Stubblebine made the following report. $3,806.61 had been received and $3,622.35 had been expended.

1906 In the fall of 1906 a handsome pipe organ was built in Faith Church. In the winter of 1906-1907 a parsonage was built on a part of the church lot. The congregation is well equipped for aggressive Christian work with a present membership of 75.

Shive's Class, 1929

1909 People were warned of their lack of church loyalty.

1915 When Duttera left, fifty-three members of the church went with him to a new church in Salisbury, the Christian, later Congregational Christian Church.

7/3/1917 Pastor Wagoner was given a month's vacation.

1919 The Finance and Property committees began.

1924 M. C. Barnhardt, named to the consistory in 1924, served on the Property Committee with K. A. Kluttz and L. A. Fisher.

1/5/1925 Juanita Barger became organist. Miss Barger later became Mrs. William F. Bradley.

1/5/1925 Luther A. Fisher, a deacon, was given permission to build and install a large desk pulpit.

May 1925 A Bulletin calls "Rock of Ages" the memory hymn for the month of May.

6/1/1925 It was decided that the parsonage would be screened throughout.

1927 Miss Elizabeth Fisher became assistant organist. (Miss Fisher, now deceased, later became Mrs. Harry Ludwick.)

2/24/1929 The morning and evening bulletin were combined. The morning service featured a Junior Talk by the pastor.

3/31/1929 Among young people presented for confirmation were Gertrude Lyerly and Geneva Bostian.

Nov. 9, 1929 Consistory minutes indicate that J. E. Holshouser of the Finance Committee, submitted the budget for next year, amounting to $4,768.25.

4/13/1931 Among the confirmands this year were Melvin Barnhardt and Marie Barnhardt.

11/7/32 $1890 was established as the minister's salary per year.

3/6/33 A motion was made by G. C. Fisher, and carried, that we extend to H. O. Bonds and R. K. Cohen a vote of thanks for their gratis services rendered in connection with repairs to the furnace in the basement of the church.

10/2/33 The pastor reported that 140 members and 71 visitors communed on October 1.

4/4/35 Among our confirmands were Ralph Bostian, John Barringer, and Margaret Barnhardt. E. Dermot Weaver joined the church by letter.

11/4/35 The every member canvas was discussed, and it was decided to start the canvas on December 1 at the morning worship.

4/18/36 Willard Lee Fisher was confirmed on Palm Sunday.

12/6/36 The congregation not only voted on church officers, but they also had a ballot for Sunday School officers.

1937 The budget for 1937 was $4,500.

1937 The committees listed for 1937 included the following: Worship and Religious Service, Finance, Music, Property, Usher, and Evangelism.

2/1/37 It was decided to appoint a Property Committee to consist of four men elected by Churchmen's Brotherhood and four ladies elected by Ladies' Missionary Society.

3/1/37 The Music Committee was instructed to secure the services of Mrs. George Fitz as choir director and also to pay her $15 per month.

3/28/37 Rachel Lyerly was among those confirmed.

4/12/37 177 members and 33 visitors communed on Easter Sunday.

6/7/37 Miss Mary K. Omwake asked permission for the use of the church on July 1 for her wedding. Permission was granted.

9/7/37 On motion of W. R. Bostian, duly seconded and carried, the pastor was authorized to purchase 150 booklets of daily devotion at 5 cents per copy.

10/4/37 A motion was made, seconded, and carried that no member of the consistory may succeed himself in office.

1/3/38 The Finance Committee was instructed to purchase 100 "A Penny a Meal" banks to distribute in the congregation. All money collected from the banks would be used as a coal fund.

4/4/38 Among the confirmands were Sara Frances Barnhardt, Martha Louise Bonds, Juanita Mozelle Fisher, Katie Sue Holshouser, Rachel Elizabeth Lyerly, William H. Lyerly, Jr., and Addie Hereford Warlick

9/17/39 Pastor Fitz was given a raise in salary to $2,000 per year.

4/14/40 233 communed on Easter Sunday.

11/3/40 An idea was brought up about taking communion in the pews. The idea was approved.

12/8/40 Ralph Bostian's first pay, for being assistant organist, was set at $10 per month.

2/14/42 According to 2/14/42 consistory minutes, George Fitz, President, and HPA Trexler, Secretary, the pastor "reported that Mrs. Homer Bonds went before the Ration Board to secure enough sugar and coffee for the church."

4/12/42 After some discussion it was moved, seconded, and approved to instruct the deacons to prepare and distribute banks for each family to contribute to a fund to pay off all the church debt, including $467.14 to the Building Fund for new boiler; $175 interest due the Board of Home Mission, and $30 each to Mrs. Fitz and Mrs. Bradley on 1940 salary.

3/14/43 The Pastor reported he would have prayer meetings in five sections for members of the church, from March 29 to April 20.

5/30/43 M. C. Barnhardt, Sr. reported that many of the members were behind in their obligations for the church. It was moved that the treasurer make out lists of members behind and give each member of the consistory some names to see.

1/16/44 A suggestion was made to ask members of the church to buy War Bonds in 4th War Loan Drive and to add to our Church Building Fund.

4/10/44 We now have a Cub Scout Den in our church. Mrs. Fitz is Den Mother.

5/14/44 Among new members confirmed this year are William Trexler and Sue Yost.

7/19/44 The consistory approved a motion to turn all building fund monies into war bonds.

12/24/44 Mrs. Donald Dearborn was approved as a substitute organist. She is to play the organ during Mrs. Bradley's three-month absence.

Choir, Palm Sunday, 1965

5/6/45 Dr. Bruce Wentz has decided to supply our pulpit until a new preacher has been secured.

5/13/45 Harold Isenberg has been selected by the Music Committee as Choir Director.

5/27/45 Our church secretary/treasurer, Geneva Kirk was to start receiving $15 per month.

9/30/45 The consistory approved taking $2,000 from our fund and borrowing $6,000 from a bank for six months to pay Reverend Peeler for the house.

9/30/45 Reverend Levens stated that Mrs. D. E. Faust would accept as choir director in our church for $40 per month.

11/5/45 The consistory gave a rising vote of thanks for the Bonds' brothers. The Property Committee reported on repairs to church and parsonage, done at no charge to the church. Mr. H. O. Bonds stated that Walt Howard & Son contributed both materials and labor for plaster repairs in the church.

11/5/45 Reverend Levens reported that repairs had been made to the motor on the organ by Mr. F. B. Walser. This was done at no charge to the church.

3/8/46 Ralph Bostian was secured as organist. L. A. Fisher moved, HPA Trexler seconded, and the consistory approved that the monthly salary for choir director and organist be increased $10 monthly effective the first Sunday they serve.

9/3/46 Reverend Levens reported that about $20,000 had been pledged toward the Building Fund, with reports still incomplete.

11/17/46 The salary of the organist is $420 per year, and the salary of the financial secretary is $240.

12/3/46 The motion was made and carried that the consistory nominate six elders and six deacons instead of three each, which had been previously customary.

1/7/47 Reverend Levens reported the church membership of 405, a net gain of 4 members for the year.

2/15/47 Reverend Lonnie Carpenter conducted a week of services preceeding Easter. It was decided to pay Reverend Carpenter $75 for his services.

March 1947 The Girl's Guild gave silver bread plates to the church. The Shive Philathea Class bought a new stove for the parsonage, moving the old one to the church kitchen.

11/47 A motion was made to set a goal of $40,000 cash on hand before starting building.

1948 A bus service was provided for Catawba students to the downtown churches.

1948 Palm Sunday confirmands included Harry Lewis Hipp, Charles Ray Fleming, and Phyllis Lee Walser.

12/48 48 new members enrolled.

3/49 It was reported that the record of attendance in Sunday School was greater than any previous Sunday this year, with a total of 271 present.

4/49 The pastor was given a leave of absence for a future tonsilectomy.

10/1/51 A motion was made to have locks and keys placed on basement door of church.

1951 The consistory wrote a letter to the N. O. Ribelin family at his death.

4/6/52 Among the confirmands was Sarah Burch.

4/25/53 A motion to discontinue Sunday night services after close of Bible School was approved.

10/25/54 Reverend Levens thanked the consistory for placing the pulpit in the church in his honor.

1/8/55 Reverend Levens stated that the congregation raised over $40,000 last year.

1/24/55 Reverend Levens stated that the Jr. Philathea Class had paid for the organ in full. The money was borrowed locally.

7/23/55 Mrs. Faust retired as choir director.

1955 Ralph Bostian was both choir director and organist.

1955 Neita Stout was secretary of the Girls Guild.

1955 Rev. Josh Levens was given a salary of $4,000.

10/24/55 The consistory directed that our pastor conduct only seasonal night services instead of every Sunday night.

1958 There was an overflow attendance at World Wide Communion Service.

1958 The Building Fund payment was $850 monthly.

1958 Mrs. Jean Ramsey was hired as choir director.

9/27/59 The church was dedicated.

1964 A part-time secretary was needed.

1964 The budget planned for 1965 amounted to $34,649.

1966 Our 1966 Statistical and Financial Report and Membership Directory stated that attendance at our Sunday worship services had been good, ranging from 350 down to 123 on one Sunday in August. Average attendance was 215. This report also cited a gross increase of 42 new members.

9/27/67 Mid-week Newsletter reported that Dr. Donald Dearborn had been elected to serve as one of the United Church representatives to the World Council of Churches in Sweden next summer.

12/6/67 Harold Isenberg has been elected to the Executive Council of the UCC to fill the unexspired term of Dr. Donald Dearborn.

1/24/68 Midweek Newsletter indicated that the Dearborn Bible Class has given a funeral pall in memory of Dr. Don Dearborn.

5/8/68 Mid-week Newsletter stated that the Mother-Daughter Banquet held on last Sunday evening was a great success, with around 206 in attendance. Thanks to the Isenberg Class for exciting, unusual, different entertainment.

2/18/69 newsletter stated that Geneva Kirk has served for 24 years as Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Unpaid members who shared their secretarial expertise were Mrs. John Robinson, Sr., Mrs. Don Selby, Mrs. Elmer Lagg, and Mrs. James Clary. In February 1969, Mrs. Don Selby was actually employed as a part-time secretary.

June 1969 On June 4, 1969, Mr. W. Hub Lyerly, our Building Fund treasurer for the past 30 years, made the final payment of $1,416.33 on the indebtedness of the church building. This ended 15 years of meeting payments of $1,000 or $850. It took real team work, as men, women, and children worked hard to make it happen. A Mortgage Burning Service was planned for the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, June 15, 1969.

1969 Prior to Mrs. Selby's employment as secretary in 1969, Mrs. P. J. Kirk had served as financial secretary and treasurer for 25 years.

7/2/69 18 youth plan to attend Johns River Summer Camp. Among them are Sarah Shuping, Karen South and Mitzi Starks.

8/27/69 Mrs. Lonnie Carpenter has consented to help Katie Morgan and Halma Horton feed the youth.

1969 300 boxes of Christmas cards and note paper of Chrismon tree in sanctuary were ordered. They were sold at $2 per box.

10/22/69 Newsletter heralded the organizational meeting of Circle 7, under the leadership of our President, Mrs. Gerney Holshouser.

3/18/70 Newwletter indicated that new Confirmands included Greg

Alcorn, Robin Benson, Mark Richard Schiemann, Lianna Morgan, Karen Jane South, Mitzi Gaye Starks, Linda Ann Weaver, Deborah Jean Webb, and others.

12/3/70 Randy Benson and Jimmy Webb served as Youth Reps.

1970 was our high point in membership, with a total of 473.

4/1/71 The Sanctuary light was given by the Ralph Bostians and the Jack Ramseys. Bill Weaver did the electrical work.

6/3/71 Special Fund Drive was set for the last Sunday in June to raise $2500.

12/71 John Robinson, Jr., Consistory President, announced to Lonnie and Jo the gift of a tour in April to countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

1/6/72 Our church was a beneficiary of the Roseman estate. Benefits were to be paid over a ten year period beginning July 1972.

1/26/72 A newsletter stated that Jr. & Sr. Highs were served fifth Sunday meals for years by three sisters: Mrs. Robert Morgan, Mrs. Sam Horton, and Mrs. Eugene Young.

2/3/72 A Youth Rep. suggested that part of the Roseman trust be used as a visible memorial, such as an organ for the enjoyment of the whole congregation. Later on 6/1/72, it was decided that the first three annual payments from the Roseman estate would be used to buy an organ. The remaining seven payments would be used to do benevolent acts within the church beyond the normal budget.

4/18/72 The Newsletter stated that we had received letters from the Carpenters as they visited Geneva, Rome, Cairo, Lebanon, Cypress, Bethlehem, and the Garden of Gethsemane.

8/10/72 From September 1 until January when Mrs. Selby returns, Loretta Hipp was to serve as church secretary, Monday thru Friday, 1-5:00 p.m.

10/12/72 Our old organ was sold to Shiloh United Methodist, Granite Quarry for $2500. This amount was then paid on the organ note.

11/14/72 Last Sunday the congregation adopted a total budget of $46,397.23. Dr. M. L. Shotzberger served as chairman of the Finance Committee.

2/17/73 A party honoring Mrs. Howard R. Omwake on her 92nd birthday will be held in the fellowship hall of our church on Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5. All women of the church are invited to attend.

3/73 Lenten suppers, prepared by Mrs. Bonds, cost 50 cents each.

4/14/73 Circle 6 held an Easter Egg Hunt from 2-3:30.

5/73 Mrs. Howard Omwake presented a name quilt the ladies had made when the new church was built. This led to setting up a History Room and Library.

6/13/73 The Vacation Bible School children sang "Jesus in My Life", written by David Faust, son of Dr. & Mrs. David Faust. The theme of the Bible School was Tell the News—Share the Love.

9/18/73 The Wednesday afternoon Pac Program, headed by Loretta

Hipp, with the choir time directed by Jean Ramsey, also has many other helpers: Sarah Shuping, Anne Greenland, Mrs. Jerry Peck, Mrs. Dan Warlick, Mrs. Norman Beck, Mrs. Patti Bost, Mrs. Jerry Barrow, and Mrs. James Cress.

October 3, 1973 Newsletter noted that the consistory had elected James E. Lyerly to succeed his father as Building Fund Treasurer. His father had faithfully served the church in this capacity for approximately 40 years.

10/10/73 Remember the banners in the fellowship hall. Louise Barnhardt assembled eight of them—including "Praise Him."

12/17/73 The Operetta, "Mr. Grumpy's Toy Shop" was scheduled originally for 12/16, but has been postponed by snow until 12/24/73 at 7 p.m. (This production was put on by Reverend and Mrs. James Cress, Loretta Hipp, Flo Peck, and 45 young people.)

1/3/74 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Goodnight were announced as new members.

1/3/74 Lamont Barnhardt gave to the church a life size sculpture of Christ, The Good Shepherd. This sculpture was placed in the narthex.

3/7/74 Mr. & Mrs. William Palmer were announced as new members.

5/74 Bill Weaver completed wiring services in the parsonage at no charge to the church.

6/6/74 On June 23 in the Fellowship Hall, a reception honoring the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Dr. & Mrs. David Faust, was to be given by their sons.

8/22/74 The Living Memorial Savings account was set up.

12/74 Pew cushions were given in memory of John Robinson.

December 1974 PAC produced the Christmas program, "Happiness Is." Sixty children were involved.

Lillie Lentz made new robes for children's choir. Johnny Walser provided materials and Louise Barnhardt helped.

3/1/75 The Mother/Daughter Banquet was a huge success with 172 attending.

9/1/75 Mary Roakes began teaching in the Play School, taking the position left vacant by Mildred Warlick's resignation.

1975 Mrs. Selby moved and Jo Ann Bernhardt replaced her as church secretary.

Puppet Ministry

1975 The new history room was established on the third floor.

9/1/77 October 2 will be observed as World-wide Communion Sunday. Following a motion by Ralph Bostian, it was decided that we would join other downtown churches in the march to the First Presbyterian Church

as a testimony of unity in Christ.

9/14/77 A newsletter listed John Walser as Sunday School Superintendent and Dan Dagenhart as Assistant Superintendent.

10/12/77 A newsletter discussed the history room committee, working together one morning a week, collecting memorabilia, and putting together albums of information, pictures, news articles, etc. This committee was comprised of Mary Dearborn, Ethel Fisher, and Juanita Bradley.

11/9/77 A newsletter proclaimed the Christmas Cantata to be "Down from His Glory," by Peterson.

1978 A January 1978 newsletter advertised a country ham supper scheduled for 1/18/78, from 5:30-8:30 at a charge of $3 for adults and $1 for children.

1978 As a project of the men, our church had a boys basketball team in the YMCA League. Eric Norris served as coach.

3/8/78 A newsletter told of a 37 piece handbell set being given in memory of Mary Brown Fisher and Jacob Lawson Fisher, by their children.

5/10/78 A newsletter invited all to Bible Study at the home of George and Mary Hipp, on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Pastor Carpenter and Pastor Seiwell are teaching.

5/25/78 A newsletter invited all fathers and sons to a banquet being held in their honor by Circle 6 on Sunday, June 11, at 6:30.

1978 The parsonage was sold this year.

1979 Marked the beginning of the Medical Equipment Lending program.

8/29/79 According to our newsletter, the consistory has voted to replace 78 windows of the educational building with white enameled storm windows.

2/13/80 Brent Snipes and his brother Kevin Snipes are to receive Eagle Scout Awards at worship service on February 24.

1980 Our bazaar made $4500 profit.

8/24/80 The congregation voted to accept Lary Diehl as our next pastor.

June 1982 25th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ.

12/19/82 James Lyerly was commended for his outstanding service as treasurer for the past ten years.

9/84 A newsletter thanked Willard Fisher for work done last month around the church, specifically regarding restroom repairs. Thanks also were expressed to Lamont Barnhardt for painting those yellow posts and building protectors we all try to avoid hitting with our automobile bumpers.

1/14/88 The Barnhardt family is giving the church $35,000 for the purchase of property at 420 South Church Street.

5/5/88 The parking lot committee includes the following: John

Robinson, Eric Norris, Narvie Bonds, Jim Webb, Jr., and Reid Clement. Estimates range from $58,000 to $63,000.

6/2/88 The contract for demolition of the house at 420 South Church Street, at a cost of $6,250, was given to Narvie L. Bonds Construction Company.

9/4/88 Jim Bost's Company of Rockwell has submitted a bid of $30,806 for the parking lot. Isenberg Electric has bid $9,600 for adequate lighting, with an additional $1,930 for security lighting, for a total of $11,530. Total costs are $42,336.

9/8/88 The consistory gave approval to Circle 2 to place covered barrels at the rear of the church for the collection of glass and cans to be recycled. The purpose is to improve the environment and raise money for benevolences.

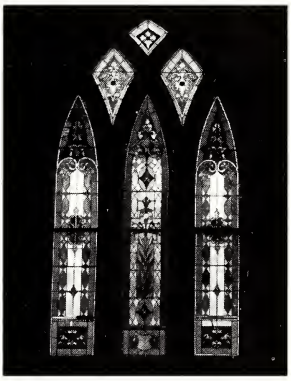
2/2/89 A new sign for the church has been paid for by monies given in memory of Edith Bonds.

2/2/89 A new downstairs history room, with recessed lighting, lowered ceiling, carpet, and enclosed closet, glass cases, original furniture from the old church, and a stained glass window was described.

4/6/89 Work has begun on remodeling of history room.

4/6/89 Pictures of all of the pastors of our church have been hung in the hallway.

9/14/89 $13,793.58 from Lillie Lentz was added to the parking lot fund in July 89.



Stained glass in "old church"

9/14/89 Play school teachers are Bonnie Marsh and Ellen Jones.

9/24/89 The History/Archives Room was dedicated.

12/14/89 An anonymous gift of $10,000 has been received.

12/89 A newsletter gives thanks to Juanita Lagg and Willard Fisher for cleaning chandeliers and replacing bulbs in the sanctuary.

12/89 There is a new roof on the educational building, and the parking facility is in use. There is a call for contributions to the Capitol Improvement Campaign of First Church.

12/89 This date marked the beginning of Caregivers. Pat Cheek and Jimmy Webb,Jr. were co-cordinators.

1/11/90 Caregivers was reported to have 17 trained volunteers and 13 care receivers.

2/7/90 The consistory, thinking back the past three years, expressed appreciation of the following: organization of the funeral choir, development of the memorial room, Sunday at Brag, Service of Christian symbols during Advent, Lenten services, Five Alive, new parking lot, recycling program of Circle 2, Prime timer's activities, provision of the one-year Bible, consistory retreats, improvement of children's and music pro-

grams, and 90th Anniversary Celebration.

2/18/90 Ken Clapp was installed as Campus Minister at Catawba.

2/90 Willard Fisher, Jason Brown, and Council Brown unloaded and installed the boiler.

3/8/90 Narvie Bonds Construction has installed the new sidewalks. He has donated labor. The church will pay for concrete.

4/5/90 The Jim Bost Construction charge for the parking lot was $32,000.

5/10/90 The sanctuary was painted at a cost of $18,540. This was made possible by the Arey family. They requested the sale of some of the stock they had given the church.

9/13/90 Our 37 year old boiler has been replaced at a cost of $7,228.20. The pipe work on the boiler cost $1,868.40.

December 1990 Our first computer, laser printer, and custom software was purchased for the church office.

1990-1991 Council was one of change. The constitution was changed for the first time since 1971, and there was a name change from consistory to council.

1992 The budget for 1992 amounted to $130,314.

1/3/92 A letter explaining a project to provide central heating and air conditioning of the Educational Building, including the Fellowship Hall, and revamping and updating electrical system of our church went out. It detailed the need for $120,000 to do the entire building and called for "advanced money."

2/92 A February 1992 newsletter cited February 9 as a time to celebrate winter with a covered dish lunch and art show. That is when Pastor Bill gave us prints of some of his art work.

2/92 Willard Fisher, Juanita Lagg, and Bill Peeler washed the chandeliers in the sanctuary.

9/10/92 a plaque was presented to Mark Schiemann for his leadership as Sunday School Superintendent.

9/10/92 Joe Lyerly reported that new choir robes have arrived.

11/30/92 A congregational meeting was held to seek approval with borrowing of 90,000 for period of 10 years at rate of 9%. The loan is penalty free for pre-payment. Advanced money to this project of approximately 26,000 has been received, with the promise of more to come.

2/11/93 A xerox machine, with a 3 year guarantee, costing $3,700 has been purchased for the church office by Dr. Elmer Lagg.

2/11/93 Willard Fisher is project manager of the current renovation.

2/11/93 The cost of laying in the ceiling in the fellowship hall has been covered by a donor.

1993 During the Easter season, Pastor Crook held a very meaningful drama, a modern day trial for Jesus Christ, aptly titled, "The Trial."

4/11/93 On June 15 there will be a surprise celebration for Pastor

Crook's 25th year.

5/13/93 The council gave approval for the puppet ministry to proceed. Patti Marion is the leader, assisted by husband, John. Paul Isenberg is to build the set. Jackye Nolen is to sew. Others will adopt a puppet.

11/13/93 This year we held a Mini-Bazaar, which featured both a meal and an auction.

2/94 The men of the church, with contributions from the circles of women, bought a steam table.

4/3/94 The children of the church held a special Easter Pageant in the fellowship hall during the Sunday School hour.

8/11/94 The position of Youth Director was approved for $10,000 per year for at least 20 hours per week.

10/13/94 It was announced at council meeting that Debbie Johnson, Youth Director, was on the job.

Lent 1996 Lenten services in the sanctuary introduced us to Shavuot. A most impressive Tenebrae service was held in the fellowship hall.

4/96 A Memorial Gift from the family of Ethel Fisher is responsible for the current beautification of the downstairs hallway area.

MEMORIES
By Nancy Hipp

A few years ago when I was Chairman of the Altar Committee, it was my duty to replace the "short" candles with new ones and trim the burned ones so that they would burn again. This particular Sunday, when the acolyte was lighting the two large candles, one candle would not burn. Wondering if I had failed to make the wick long enough, I became preoccupied with the candle that wouldn't burn, until I heard Pastor Lary Diehl mention something about each of us lighting JUST ONE CANDLE. I don't remember the rest of the sermon. I only know that there was a reason for only one candle to light that Sunday morning. It emphasized that each one of us, through Christ, can make a difference.

JOSH LEVENS

Several years ago, Harold Isenberg and Marion Richards interviewed Reverend Josh Levens. They were looking ahead to our 100th anniversary celebration and looking backward to the things which had happened earlier in their midst.

Josh Levens remembers going to see Mr. Reynolds at the Building and Loan. Mr. Reynolds wanted to know how much money we wanted, and Josh told them $100,000. He said he had never loaned a church that much before.

The next morning Mr. Reynolds called and said, "When do you want your money?" Rev. Levens asked, "When can we get it?" Mr. Reynolds then said "Right now."

Josh asked him how he decided overnight to let us have that much money. He said that Mr. Hudson had checked through the records and found that many people of our congregation had loans with them and never had a payment been missed!

Josh once asked Mr. Benton, the architect, why he had put the furnace under the pulpit. "Well, he said, "I figured if anybody was ready to go, you ought to be."

Josh remembers that he was trying to help us get a pastor after Reverend Fitz left. He was at summer conference out at Catawba, and Hub Lyerly and Mr. Bostian were two members of the committee. There was also a third member of the committee. They went to Catawba and said to Josh, "How about you coming?" He and Mildred visited and finally did decide to come.

RALPH BOSTIAN

Ralph remembers every pastor beginning with Banks Peeler.

He remembers driving to church in a car with no glass-using lap robes to keep warm.

He remembers annual Sunday School picnics at various lakes and at Ritchie's farm.

He remembers going to John's River Camp for two weeks in 1939. It took him at least a week to get used to the cold water.

A special memory involves the service when the vote to build a new church passed. Ralph's father, W. R. Bostian, stood and requested that everyone stand and sing the doxology. Ralph played for it.

Ralph also remembers sunrise services at the old church.

JO CARPENTER

Jo remembers the days when you went to the woods looking for just the right Christmas tree.

Lonnie and Jo in the late 1960's.

She remembers Lonnie always coming over to the church early on Sunday mornings. On one particular Sunday she arrived to find him mopping, the result of a broken water pipe.

She remembers a time when some painting was going on and Lonnie and Lamont Barnhardt were painting the windows in the fellowship hall. It seemed to take forever.

She vividly remembers the trip the congregation

gave to Lonnie and she and the impact that it had to be where Christ had been.

She remembers the thrill of moving out of the parsonage and into their own home.

She also remembers Lonnie's total surprise, when on his last Sunday as our preacher, he was presented the keys to a new car, as well as a silver bowl.

KATHARYN WEAVER

Katharyn Weaver remembers Mrs. Homer Misenheimer trying to get everybody in the bus after rain spoiled a Sunday School picnic at South River.

Mrs. Misenheimer had on a dress that kept shrinking more the wetter it got. So, Mrs. Misenheimer had a double job—pulling her dress down and getting everyone back on the bus.

She remembers the days of the pump organ. Someone had to stay in a little room to pump the air. On one occasion, when the organist tried to play to no avail, they went to check on the boys who were supposed to handle this chore and found them asleep.

Katharyn remembers Reverend Wagoner's daughter Elizabeth (Beth).

She remembers Jennie Fisher, the grandmother of Juanita Lagg, Willard Fisher, Miriam Clary and Marie Cuthrell.

Mrs. Fisher would use an empty building downtown for making and selling home-made noodles. People could get a bowl of noodles for 10 cents. Orders were taken and meals were delivered to various job sites around town.

One night a month Josh Levens met with college students in the Miller House. Either Mrs. Levens or Katharyn Weaver would prepare a meal for them.

Josh Levens also had a cabin at the river and would often take some of the boys of the church down to help him. Jimmy Weaver, Dan Warlick, and Johnny Robinson were frequent helpers.

MY CHURCH

"Before I was born, my church gave to my parents ideals of life and love that made my home a place of strength and beauty.

In helpless infancy my church joined my parents in consecrating me to Christ and in Baptizing me in His Name.

My church enriched my childhood with the romance and religion and the lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truth my church taught

became radiant, insistent, and inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence my church heard the surge of my soul and she guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars.

When first my heart knew the strange awakenings of love my church taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections; she santified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, my church drew me to the friend of all the weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless. When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin, my church has believed in me and wooingly she has called me back to live within the heights of myself.

Now have come the children dearer to me than life itself, and my church is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and christly living.

My church calls me to her heart. She asks my service and my loyalty. She has a right to ask it! I will help her to do for others what she has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help her to do for others what she has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help her keep aflame and aloft the torch of a living faith.

I thank God for my church.

ADDENDUMS

The 1955 Annual Report paints a beautiful portrait of what happens when all members work together for common goals. Reverend Josh Levens gave a ten year comparison, citing a growth in church membership from 393 to 454. During this same period, the church school grew from 235 to 325. Church school attendance averaged 120 in 1945 and 205 in 1955. The value of property listings raised from $23,000 to $275,000.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

1964

1972

1978

THE DIRECTORY

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

REV. J. L. LEVENS.....President
HAROLD ISENBERG.....Vice-President
E. D. WEAVER.....Secretary
MRS. P. J. KIRK.....Financial Secretary
W. H. LYERLY.....Treasurer Building Fund

THE CONSISTORY

Elders: M. C. Barnhardt, Sr., W. H. Lyerly, Fred Warlick, Harold Isenberg, E. D. Weaver. Albert Willard, W. R. Bostian, Emeritus.
Deacons: John Frazier, M. M. Richards, Council Brown, Javis Arey, Sam Horton, Robert Morgan.
Trustees: John Robinson, Chairman; M. C. Barnhardt, Sr., Donald Dearborn.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Fred Warlick.....General Superintendent
Albert Willard.....Assistant General Superintendent
Willard Fisher.....Secretary
James Clary.....Assistant Secretary
Sam Horton.....Treasurer
Elmer Lagg.....Superintendent Adult Department
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Propst.....Superintendents of Young People's Department
Mrs. F. B. Walser.....Superintendent Junior-Intermediate Department
Mrs. J. L. Levens.....Superintendent Primary Department
Mrs. Ray Stout.....Superintendent Beginners' Department
Miss Margie Lyerly.....Superintendent Nursery Department
Mrs. Elmer Lagg.....Superintendent Cradle Roll Department
Mrs. Rufus Cohen and Mrs. Jake Fisher.....Superintendents Home Department

WOMEN'S GUILD

Mrs. John Robinson.....President
Mrs. Donald Dearborn.....Vice-President
Mrs. J. G. Holshouser.....Secretary
Mrs. George Coleman.....Treasurer

CIRCLE LEADERS

Mrs. D. E. Faust.....No. 1
Mrs. Charles Fisher.....No. 2
Mrs. C. K. Bonds.....No. 3
Mrs. Earl Shuping.....Mary Marden Faust
Mrs. James Webb.....Mildred Levens

CHURCHMEN'S BROTHERHOOD

James Fraley.....President
E. L. Peeler.....Vice-President
Henry Goodman.....Secretary
K. A. Kluttz.....Treasurer

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Freddie Weaver.....President
Donald Stout.....Vice-President
Carol Ann Harrison.....Secretary-Treasurer
Mabel Barnhardt.....Counselor

GIRLS' GUILD

Patsy Holshouser.....President
Brenda Mickey.....Vice-President
Catherine Dearborn.....Secretary
Elizabeth Arey.....Treasurer
Mrs. John Holshouser and Mrs. F. B. Walser.....Counselors

SCOUT TROOP NO. 445

W. H. Roberts.....Scoutmaster
Clyde Miller.....Assistant Scoutmaster
Johnny Robinson.....Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
Troop Committee: Glenn Tussey, Chairman; George Coleman, James Webb, Henry Goodman, John Fraizer, M. C. Barnhardt, Jr., John Robinson, James Clary
Institutional Representative.....Sam Horton

CHURCH COMMITTEES FOR 1954

Building: Donald Dearborn, Chairman; M. C. Barnhardt, Sr., W. R. Bostian, W. H. Lyerly, J. J. Gminder, A. R. Keppel, B. D. Arey, Albert Willard, (N. O. Ribelin, deceased)
Building Finance: Harold Isenberg, Chairman; Mrs. Raymond Jenkins, Mrs. J. G. Holshouser, John Robinson, H. P. A. Trexler, Albert Willard.
Pulpit: M. C. Barnhardt, Sr., Chairman; W. R. Bostian, William Bradley, H. O. Bonds
Ushering: W. H. Lyerly, Chairman; James Clary, Walter Shoaf, Council Brown, Clyde Miller, Harry Peeler, Willard Fisher, Elmer Lagg, Paul Propst, J. G. Holshouser, Johnny Miller, Bryant Walser, E. L. Harviel, Charles Proctor, Jr.
Christian Education: Fred Warlick, Chairman; Mrs. Lionel Whiston, Ralph Bostian, Joe Lyerly, Mabel Barnhardt, Freddie Weaver.
Finance: Albert Willard, Chairman; James Harrison, M. C. Barnhardt, Jr., Harry Hipp, Mrs. N O. Ribelin, Mrs. C. C. Rice, Johnny Robinson.
Social Service and Social Action: Sam Horton, Chairman; Charles Fisher, Mrs. R. K. Cohen, Fred Campbell, Mrs. Robert Crook, Rowe Propst
Janitor Supervision: Council Brown, Chairman; Homer Rhodes, Mrs. K. A. Kluttz, Dan Warlick
Communion and Altar: E. D. Weaver, Chairman; Mrs. John Robinson, Mrs. D. E. Faust, Mrs. Charles Fisher, Mrs. C. K. Bonds, Mrs. Earl Shuping, Mrs. James Webb
Property: Javis Arey, Chairman; Lamont Barnhardt, W. H. Roberts, Jimmy Weaver
Evangelism: Robert Morgan, Chairman; Mrs. Paul Bonds, Rufus Cohen, Luther Fisher, Mrs. Lewis Husbands, Bill Shuping
Music: John Frazier, Chairman; Floyd Stout, Russell Hoffman, Jack Shuping
Stewardship: M. M. Richards, Chairman; Catherine Whitener, Mrs. Grover Willard, Alton Russell, Nancy Mahaley, Mary Louise Brown

CHURCH DIRECTORY - JUNE 1996

Pastor	David L. Crook
Church Secretary	Carolyn Cline
Council President	J. Brent Snipes
Council Vice President	Frank Goodnight
Council Secretary	Patti Marion
Church Treasurer	Juanita Lagg
Church Treasurer	Javis Arey
Youth Director	Debbie Johnson
Choir Director	Brett Ballard
Organist	Susan Trivette
Organist Emeritus	Ralph Bostian
Cherub Choir Director	Lonnie A. Carpenter, Jr.
Puppet Ministry Leaders	John Marion, Pattie Marion
Sexton	Romas Shuping, Mark Shuping

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

President	Lonnie A. Carpenter, Jr.
Vice President, Program Chairman	John Isenberg
Secretary	Greg Alcorn
Treasurer	Dan Warlick

CHURCH COUNCIL

Class of 96:	Nancy Hipp, Willard Fisher, Linda Alexander, Patti Marion, Brent Snipes, Paul Isenberg, Mike Fleming, Romas Shuping, Narvie Lee Bonds, Doris Spencer
Class of 97:	A. Harvey Adams, Lamont Barnhardt, Carol McCowan, Frank Goodnight, John Walser, George Kincaid, James Lyerly, Don Scott, Joyce Trexler, David Waller
Class of 98:	Patricia Norris, Phyllis Little, Louise Fisher, Ted Cline, Jo Ann Poplin, Ann Palmer, Mark Alexander, Joe Lyerly, Dan Warlick, Sarah Shuping

CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent	Patti Marion
Literary Secretary	Willard Fisher
Nursery	Mitzi Connell, Patty Shuping
Kindergarten	Patricia Norris
Primary	Kathy Brown, Millie Campbell, Jo Carpenter
Junior Department	Patti Marion, John Marion
Middle School	James Lyerly, Sarah Schiemann
Senior High	John Isenberg
Upper Room	Frank Goodnight, Dr. Bill Palmer Mark Schiemann, Rev. David Crook
Issues	Various outside speakers
Isenberg/Katie Shive	Don Stout, Herb Rhodes
Dearborn Bible Class	A. Harvey Adams, Virginia Greenland, Bill Greenland

CHURCH WOMEN

President	Janet Rhodes
Vice President	Diane Goodnight
Secretary	Mary Enloe
Treasurer	Mabel Barnhardt
Circle #2 President	Ruby Mae Brown
Circle #4 President	Mary Dearborn
Circle #5 President	Eleanor Peeler
Circle #6 President	Carolyn Cline
Circle #7 President	Karen Carpenter

1996 CHURCH COMMITTEES

Christian Education	Debbie Johnson, Chair
Decorations	Millie Campbell, Chair
Evangelism	Sue Scott, Chair
History	Miriam Clary, Co-Chair
Fellowship	Sarah Shuping, Chair
Finance	Greg Alcorn, Chair
Celebrations/Anniversary	Narvie Lee Bonds
Memorial	Juanita Lagg, Chair
Missions	Janet Rhodes, Chair
Pastor/Staff Relations	Don Scott, Chair
PreSchool	Edith Alcorn, Chair
Property	Willard Fisher, Chair, Dan Mikkelson, Consultant
Stewardship	Dick Cheek, Chair
Trustee	Elmer Lagg
Worship	Diane Goodnight, Chair
Altar Guild	Nancy Hipp, Chair
Acolytes	Mitzi Connell, Glenda Shrewsbury
Greeters	Rachel Benson, Vernon Benson
Ushers	Willard Fisher, Chair
Church Cabinet	Rev. David Crook, Chair, Brent Snipes, Frank Goodnight, Edith Alcorn, Debbie Johnson, Sue Scott, Janet Rhodes, Dick Cheek, Diane Goodnight